

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PDEV, NG

SUBJECT: NIGER INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS

1. NIGER USHERED IN ITS SIXTEENTH YEAR OF INDEPENDENCE AUGUST 3 WITH A MODEST TREE PLANTING CEREMONY ATTENDED BY MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT AND THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS. AS RAMADAN APPROACHES, MOSLEMS WERE ASKED TO CURTAIL UNDUE EXCESSES AND CELEBRATE IN SOBRIETY, PIETY AND HUMILITY.

2. IN HIS RADIO ADDRESS TO THE NATION, PRESIDENT KOUNTCHE CHARACTERIZED THE INDEPENDENCE PERIOD AS SIXTEEN YEARS OF SACRIFICE FOR NIGER-- A CHARTER MEMBER OF THE LEAST DEVELOPED, LAND-LOCKED, SHORT ON RESOURCES, AND RECENTLY HARDEST HIT BY THE SAHELIAN DROUGHT. HE WARNED, HOWEVER, THAT SOLUTIONS WERE NOT TO BE FOUND BY ENDORSING" REVOLUTIONARY TRAVESTIES" AND " THE FESTIVAL OF ISMS", BUT RATHER THROUGH THE CONCRETE MEASURES AIMED AT DEVELOPMENT AS REPRESENTED BY HIS GOVERNMENT. THIS, HE CONCLUDED, WAS THE ONLY DIALECTIC THAT THE NIGERIAN PEOPLE UNDERSTAND.

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3. AT THE SAME TIME KOUNTCHE SAID THAT NIGER COULD

NOT TURN A BLIND EYE TO THE EVENTS TAKING PLACE IN
SOUTHERN AFIRCA. TO THIS END KOUNTCHE SAID HE HAD
INSTRUCTED THE NIGER DELEGATION TO THE COLOMBO CONFERENCE
TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO PUT AN END TO THE SITUATION
WHICH BORDERED ON WHAT HE CALLED GENOCIDE. SYNODIS

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